AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 592 Published by THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY New York City Jan. 23, 1933

59.7, 55 P (69)

PACHYPANCHAX, A NEW GENUS OF CYPRINODONT FISHES FROM THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS AND MADAGASCAR

BY GEORGE S. MYERS

Further studies[1] of the funduline cyprinodont fishes show the existence of a hitherto unrecognized genus in the Seychelles Islands and Madagascar. Pending publication of a revision of the African and Asiatic genera, it seems best to place the new genus on record.

PACHYPANCHAX, new genus

GENOTYPE.—*Haplochilus playfairii* Günther, 1866.

Maxillary near its end closely bound down to the preorbital region by skin, and only slightly movable. Lip-rictus fitting up into a right-angled notch before eye. Proximal area of caudal fin, more than half-way to margin, closely and finely scaled; the caudal scales are in straight even rows, one scale in width, diminishing in size and diverging from each other as they proceed outward; each series covers the interspace between two of the caudal rays. Hæmal arches not expanded for the extension of the cœlom and air-bladder into the caudal region. Dorsal fin set far back. Caudal fin rounded. Habitus similar to that of *Panchax* and *Epiplatys*, but more chubby.

Pachypanchax playfairii differs from *Panchax* and *Epiplatys* and agrees with *Aphyosemion* and *Nothobranchius* in the attachment of the maxillary to the preorbital, although in habitus it approaches the first two. It has recently been referred to *Panchax*, from which it differs not only in the maxillary but also in the unexpanded hæmal arches. *Pachypanchax* differs from all other African and Asiatic genera in the peculiarly scaled caudal fin. In this it approaches the recently described *Austrofundulus* from Venezuela (Myers, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XLV, 1932, p. 159), which, in common with all the other Neotropical Rivulini, differs from the Old World genera in having the maxillary fixed partly or wholly behind the preorbital.

Pachypanchax playfairii is known from the Seychelles, from which source I have examined specimens in The American Museum of Natural History through the courtesy of Mr. J. T. Nichols. Aquarists have lately obtained living material in Zanzibar. Two other species appear to be referable to the genus, although I have not seen specimens. These are *Pachypanchax omalonotus* (Duméril, 1861), from Nossi Bé, Madagascar, and *Pachypanchax sakaramyi* (Holly, 1928), from Sakaramy, Madagascar.

[1]See Myers, 1931, Stanf. Univ. Pub., Biol., VI (3); etc.